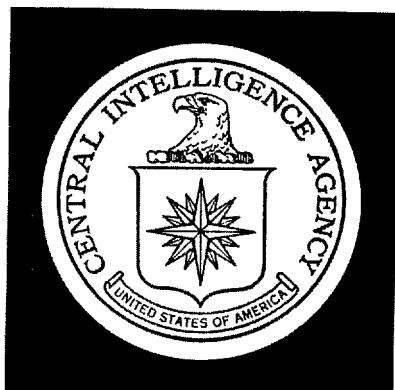


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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Military Situation in South Vietnam: South Vietnamese troops, operating on the edge of one of the Viet Cong's most inviolate base camps in the delta, have reportedly killed 89 Communists so far.

Eight ARVN battalions have been committed to Operation DAN CHI 270/D which began on 26 December on the periphery of the U Minh forest, a traditional safe haven for several enemy main force battalions. Initial reports indicate that a weapons factory has been destroyed and several weapons captured. Friendly losses have been light. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The government soon may take steps to try to end the dockworkers' strike at Saigon's port facilities.

Key government officials, including police director Loan, are expected to contact Premier Ky at the resort of Da Lat today to get his written support to intervene. Exactly how the government security forces and the port authority plan to get the stevedores back on the job has not been disclosed, although the use of Vietnamese troops to help operate the port is being considered.

As the walkout continued for the third day yesterday, US troops again unloaded military cargo at both New Port and at the military sector of the main port. Attempts to negotiate a settlement with the union leaders were again unsuccessful. A government communique offering other jobs to the workers who were laid off from the New Port facility was not enough to appease their union leaders, who are apparently holding out for additional employment guarantees for 1967.

(continued)

Communist Political Developments: Vietnamese Communist propaganda continues to extol the virtues of guerrilla warfare. Hanoi radio on 22 December broadcast one of the latest of these tributes, written under the pseudonym Cuu Long. It credited the guerrillas with more than one third of the total US/GVN casualties. Cuu Long also stressed the importance of the guerrilla in the battle for political control of the rural population.

An unusually large number of articles praising guerrilla tactics have appeared in Vietnamese Communist propaganda over the past several months. Prior to that time, more stress had been placed on the importance of "mobile" or more conventional tactics in the battle for South Vietnam.

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Indonesia: Moves by President Sukarno and his supporters to counter the campaign to depose him have sharpened tensions in Djakarta.



General

Nasution is said to have agreed to convene congress in mid-March. Nasution, however, believes it would be extremely difficult in view of strong National Party support for Sukarno to obtain a majority for impeachment.

In the meantime, anti-Sukarno forces intend to continue their press campaign and demonstrations to discredit the President and intimidate his supporters.

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NOTES

Sudan: A coup attempt by Sudanese military units based outside of Khartoum was easily put down by loyal troops on 28 December. The leader of the coup was reportedly a nephew of the secretary-general of the Sudan Communist Party (SCP), but it is still uncertain whether the attempt was Communist-led. The government, which is resisting last week's high court decision to legalize the SCP, has, however, taken advantage of the confusion to arrest several key Communist leaders.

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Berlin: East German insistence on political conditions prevented a Berlin pass arrangement this Christmas. Pankow presumably wished to test the new West German Government's professed intention to take a more flexible attitude toward East Germany and to caution other Eastern European states to maintain a firm stance in their dealings with Bonn. In the fall of 1965 the West Berlin Senat and Bonn made a minor concession to East German claims of sovereignty, but this time they were not under sufficient public pressure to go further in order to obtain an agreement.

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